

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04745 190026Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /022 W
-----024058 200143Z /73

R 180323Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8426

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4745

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINR, IR
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND FOR GOI AMBASSADOR GHASSEMI

REF: KUWAIT 2984

1. REZA GHASSEMI, BORN 1932, HAS DOCTORATE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM TEHRAN UNIVERSITY AND ALSO GRADUATED FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY. HE ENTERED GOVERNEMENT SERVICE IN 1951 FIRST WORKING FOR MINISTRY OF FINANCE THEN IN 1962 TRANSFERRING TO MFA. HIS ONLY OVERSEAS POSTING PRIOR TO BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT WAS FOUR YEARS SERVICE IN THE PRESS SECTION OF THE GOI EMBASSY IN ROME. HE WAS HEAD OF THE FIRST POLITICAL DEPT (IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT GULF COUNTRIES, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN) FOR EIGHT YEARS, 1968-76. HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND ITALIAN WELL BUT HAS ONLY LIMITED ENGLISH.

2. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD MIXED REACTIONS FROM THEIR CONTACTS WITH GHASSEMI. DURING HIS MFA DAYS HE WORKED EXCEPTIONALLY LONG HOURS FOR THAT ORGANIZATION, OFTEN BEING AT HIS DESK PAST 6P.M. HE IMPRESSED ONE EMBOFF AS THE BEST INFORMED DEPARTMENT HEAD IN MFA WHILE ANOTHER FOUND HIM KNOWLEDGEABLE BUT PEDANTIC AND LEGALISTIC IN HIS APPROACH TO POLITICAL ISSUES. AT ONE TIME HE WAS RUMORED TO BE A SAVAK OFFICIAL ON LOAN TO MFA. ALTHOUGH
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QUITE ACCESSIBLE DURING OFFICE HOURS (ONE OF FEW MFA OFFICIALS WHO WOULD PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE ONCE RAPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED) GHASSEMI TURNED DOWN EVERY SOCIAL INVITATION EXTENDED BY EMBOFFS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM EMBASSY KUWAIT'S COMMENT LAST YEAR (KUWAIT 2328) THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MALADROIT IN HANDLING

HIS AMBASSADORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES THERE.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 may 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: PINR, IR, (GHASSEMI, REZA)
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